

Coins

Digging for change in pockets full of value

By Roger Boye

CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME old-time coin collectors may say, rare and semirare coins are still being found in circulation.

To be sure, gone are the days of 15 years ago when one could obtain silver dollars dated in the 1800s at any bank. But in the last two months, for example, valuable coins have been found in circulation in the Chicago area. Here are some I have heard about: a 1932-S quarter [retail price of \$30 in good condition], an 1895 Indian head cent [retail 70 cents in good condition], and a 1939-D nickel [retail \$3.50 in good condition].

In short, even noncollectors should check pocket change daily for rare coins. And it doesn't take a photographic memory or a great deal of work to be able to identify coins worth more than their face value to a collector.

If you are a noncollector, here is a simple guide of what coins to save from circulation:

Dollar coins: Save any silver dollar. [The

Eisenhower dollars in circulation contain no silver. If the dollar is dated 1935 or before, it's silver. Retail price of a silver dollar in circulated condition starts at \$6.]

Half-dollars: Save any half-dollar dated 1970 or before. [Half-dollars dated 1964 and before contain 90 per cent silver and sell for at least \$1.80 each. Half-dollars dated 1965 to 1970 contain 40 per cent silver and sell for at least 80 cents each.]

Quarters: Save any quarter dated 1964 or before. [Quarters dated 1964 and before contain 90 per cent silver and sell for at least 85 cents each.]

Dimes: Save any dime dated 1964 or before. [These dimes also contain 90 per cent silver and sell for at least 40 cents each.]

Nickels: Save any nickel dated 1958 and before. [Several nickels dated prior to 1959 are not collectors' items. But nickels dated 1958 and earlier are becoming increasingly difficult to find in circulation. It won't be too long before

they all command a collector's premium.]

Cents: Save any cent dated 1958 and before. [Cents dated prior to 1959 have the "wheat ear" design on the reverse. Dealers are selling wheat ear cents for at least three cents each.]

THE NEW Bicentennial quarters will be released to the nation at a 12:30 p. m. ceremony tomorrow in the Dirksen Federal Building Plaza, 219 S. Dearborn St.

Among those attending will be Jack L. Ahr of Arlington Heights, who designed the quarter's new Bicentennial reverse showing a Revolutionary War drummer; Mrs. Mary Brooks, director of the United States Mint; and Robert P. Mayo, president of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank.

The Federal Reserve Bank will begin to distribute the quarters to banks tomorrow so they should start appearing in circulation in the next few weeks.

The Bicentennial half-dollars were released last month, and Bicentennial dollar coins will be released later this summer.